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Title:

Press release - LCL Country Members voting for 20% increase in excess water rates

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PRESS RELEASE BY THE LEADER OF THE
OPPOSITION, DON DUNSTAN, Q.C., M.P.

24-10-68

The Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Dunstan said this week he was amazed at the fact that L.C.L. country Members of Parliament had voted for a 20 per cent increase in excess water rates.

He said: "Very few members spoke on the motion to have the increase reviewed, yet this is something which involves country people more than those in the city.

"The L.C.L. claims it looks after the interests of country people, but it was the Labor Opposition who opposed the increase in rates.

"I can only conclude that people in the country, especially the districts which use a lot of water, are being short changed by their members who voted for an increase in excess water rates."

In August, the A.L.P. Member for Stuart, Mr. Riches, moved to have the increase of 20 per cent in charges for excess water reviewed. He said it would place an undue burden on the community, particularly market gardeners, householders and country residents.

Mr. Dunstan said: "The people of South Australia are entitled to something better than this impost of the L.C.L. Government.

"South Australians co-operated with the Labor Government to the extent that the worst drought for years was weathered without the need to impose water restrictions. Now the drought has broken, we have had a very wet winter, and the L.C.L. Government sees fit to impose water rate increases on the citizens of South Australia.

"The fact that it has been levied on excess water means that virtually the whole of the increase will be borne by people living outside the city of Adelaide, although

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B.H.P. for example, who have to use vast quantities of water, will be exempted because they have a contractual agreement on this.

"I am disappointed," Mr. Dunstan said, "that L.C.L. country members did not stand up for the people in their districts and try to prevent this measure.

"The country members of the L.C.L. Government have let the matter lapse without doing anything for their constituents, and as a result country dwellers will have to bear this extra burden."
